

THOMAS COPELAND.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 518.]

JULY 2, 1842.

MR. WILLIAM O. BUTLER, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT :

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of Thomas Copeland, report :

That the petitioner was in the employment of the United States, at the Allegany arsenal, in the State of Pennsylvania, from December, 1836, until August, 1838, with the exception of a small interval, during all which time he was rated and paid as a machinist, notwithstanding he was engaged in and performed the work of a master workman; and he claims, as justly due him, the difference between these grades, which is at the rate of about fifty cents per day—amounting, in all, to the sum of two hundred and twenty-six dollars and thirty-seven and a half cents. It further appears, that, while thus employed, he remodeled a steam engine, and was the originator of several valuable labor-saving machines that are now in the use of the United States.

The letter (hereto annexed) from Major Baker, the then superintendent of said arsenal, will place the claim of the petitioner in its true point of view.

From the said letter, and the testimony before the committee, they are of opinion that the petitioner has an equitable claim against the United States for the sum before stated, and report a bill accordingly.

WATERVLIET ARSENAL, *June 16, 1842.*

MY DEAR SIR: In reply to yours of the 11th instant, I beg to refer you to my correspondence with the Ordnance department, while I was in command at Allegany arsenal, for the purpose of learning whether or not I did recommend an increase of pay to Mr. Copeland beyond two dollars and a half per diem.

I think that I never made an application, because I did not consider Mr. Copeland a master workman, and could not so muster him, having at the time my full complement of that grade of men.

If I could state that, in my opinion, Mr. Copeland has a *legal claim* for additional compensation, I would do so with pleasure.

All I can say (and it may be better than an opinion) is, that the services rendered by Mr. Copeland were really valuable; that the steam engine and machinery attached to it were greatly improved by his alterations and ad-

ditions; that he invented and put in operation several ingenious machines in the public workshops, and that his mechanical talents and skill, in which I had full confidence, were applied and exerted very faithfully and usefully in the public service.

If we should take into consideration the *saving* to the public by the improvements made by Mr. Copeland, he would, without doubt, have an equitable claim for the additional fifty cents per day; and, under the circumstances, I really hope the committee may so consider his application.

I am, dear sir, very respectfully and truly yours,

R. L. BAKER,
Major of Ordnance.

G. L. THOMPSON, Esq.,
Washington, D. C.